CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 6449 TO AMEND 2006 PA 480 "UNIFORM VIDEO SERVICES LOCAL FRANCHISE ACT"

WHEREAS, 2006 Public Act 480, entitled "Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act"; is "AN ACT to provide for uniform video service local franchises; to promote competition in providing video services in this state; to ensure local control of rights-of-way; to provide for fees payable to local units of government; to provide for local programming; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials; and to provide for penalties; and

WHEREAS, Section 1 of 2006 Public Act 480 defines the types of entities considered providers of video service through facilities located at least in part in the public rights-of-way without regard to delivery technology, including internet protocol technology; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 6449 was introduced by State Representatives Calley and Coleman on October 11, 2022, had its first reading, then was referred to the Committee on Communications and Technology; and

WHEREAS, amendments to 2006 Public Act 480 proposed by HB 6449 would exclude satellite and streaming services from the definition of "video service"; and

WHEREAS, 2006 Public Act 48, provides for local governments to negotiate franchise fees in exchange for use of public rights-of-way, and provides for local control to manage rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS excluding satellite and streaming providers who use the right-of-way is removing local control to manage rights-of-way efficiently and appropriately; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Waterford Township Cable Coordinator and the Waterford Township Board of Trustees that local control of rights-of-way should remain under the jurisdiction of local government as intended by the current provisions of 2006 Public Act 480.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Township Board of the Charter Township of Waterford opposes the changes to 2006 Public Act 480 proposed by House Bill 6449, supports local control of public rights-of-way, and directs the Waterford Township Clerk to provide signed copies of this resolution to our State Representatives, the State Representatives who sponsored HB 6449, and members of the Committee on Communications and Technology.